

# AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

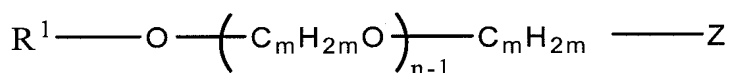
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the International application:

## Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of dispersing aqueous suspensions of solids, the method comprising:

blending block copolymers with an aqueous suspension of the solids, the suspension of solids including hydraulic binders which include materials selected from the group consisting of cement, lime, gypsum, anhydrite and mixtures thereof, ~~the block copolymers prepared by polymerization of a poly(alkylene oxide) compound with at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer compound~~

wherein the block copolymers are prepared by reacting a poly(alkylene oxide) compound of the general formula (I)



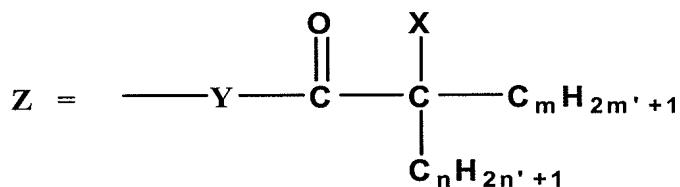
(I)

in which

R<sup>1</sup> = hydrogen, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl radical, a cycloaliphatic C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>-cycloalkyl radical, an optionally substituted C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>14</sub>-aryl radical;

m = 2 to 4;

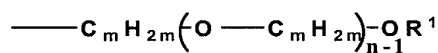
n = 1 to 250;



(III)

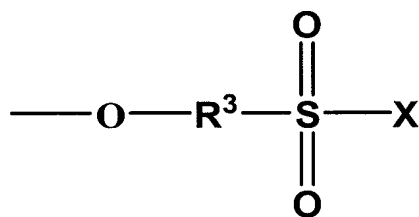
where Y = O or NR<sup>2</sup>

R<sup>2</sup> = H, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>-alkyl radical, a C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>14</sub>-aryl radical, or



X = Cl or Br

$m' = 1 \text{ to } 4$   
 $n' = 0 \text{ to } 2$

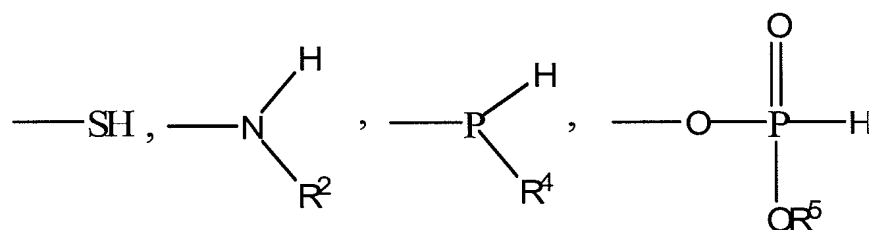


(IV)

where

$\text{R}^3$  = an optionally substituted  $\text{C}_6\text{--C}_{14}$ -arylene radical

$\text{X} = \text{Cl, Br}$

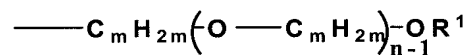


(V)

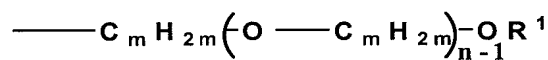
in which

$\text{R}^4$  is H, a  $\text{C}_1\text{--C}_{12}$  alkyl radical, a  $\text{C}_5\text{--C}_8$ -cycloalkyl radical, a  $\text{C}_6\text{--C}_{14}$ -aryl radical, optionally

substituted by hydroxyl, carboxyl or sulfo groups, or

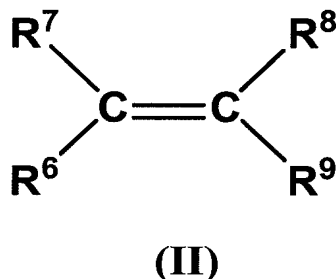


and  $\text{R}^5$  is  $\text{C}_1\text{--C}_{12}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_6\text{--C}_{14}$ -aryl, or



and  $\text{R}^1, \text{R}^2, m$  and  $n$  have the abovementioned meaning.

with an ethylenically unsaturated monomer compound capable of free radical polymerization and of the general formula (II)



in which

R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> may be H, CH<sub>3</sub>, COOH or salts thereof, COOR<sup>10</sup>, CONR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>10</sup>

R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> together may be O-CO-O

R<sup>8</sup> may be H, CH<sub>3</sub> or -CH<sub>2</sub>-COOR<sup>10</sup>

R<sup>9</sup> may be COOR<sup>10</sup>, an optionally substituted C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>14</sub>-aryl radical or OR<sup>11</sup>

R<sup>10</sup> may be H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>-hydroxyalkyl,

R<sup>11</sup> may be acetyl, and

R<sup>1</sup>, m and n have the abovementioned meaning.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction of the poly(alkylene oxide) compound with the monomer compound is carried out in the form of a free radical polymerization.

4. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the reaction is effected in the form of an "atom transfer radical polymerization" (ATRP).

5. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1-2, wherein the aryl radicals for R<sup>1</sup> are also substituted by hydroxyl, carboxyl and sulfo groups.

6. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1-2, wherein in formula (I), m is 2 or 3 and n is 5 to 250.

7. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1-2, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>-alkyl.

8. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1-2, wherein m' is 1 and n' is 0 or 1.

9. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1-2, wherein the arylene radical R<sup>3</sup> also has halo, hydroxyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>-alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>-dialkylamino or carboxyl groups.

10. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1-2, wherein R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are H, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> together are O-CO-O, R<sup>8</sup> is H, CH<sub>3</sub> or CH<sub>2</sub>COOR<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> is COOR<sup>10</sup> or is a phenyl radical optionally substituted by hydroxyl, carboxyl or sulfo groups.

11. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are H, R<sup>8</sup> = H or CH<sub>3</sub> and R<sup>9</sup> = COOR<sup>10</sup>.

12. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are H, R<sup>8</sup> = H or CH<sub>3</sub> and R<sup>9</sup> is COOH or salts thereof or COOR<sup>12</sup>, where R<sup>12</sup> is tert-butyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-hydroxyalkyl.

13. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1-2, wherein the reaction of the poly (alkylene oxide) compound and the monomer compound is carried out in the presence of a inimer compound.

14. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the inimer compound is prepared by esterification of hydroxy-functionalized monomers, such as, for example hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA), with ATRP initiators, such as, for example, halopropionic acids.

15. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the inimer compound is prepared by sulfochlorination of styrene.

16. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction is effected in the temperature range from 20 to 110°C.

17. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the block copolymers are used in an amount of 0.01 to 5% by weight, based on the suspension of solids.

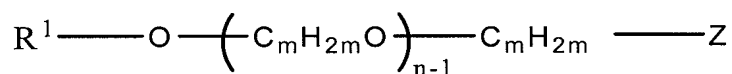
18. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the suspension of solids contains inorganic particles selected from the group consisting of crushed rock, silicate powder, chalk, clays, porcelain slip, talc, pigments and carbon black.

19. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the suspension of solids contains organic particles, such as, for example, plastics powder.

20. (Currently amended) A method of superplasticizing aqueous suspensions of solids, the method comprising:

blending block copolymers with an aqueous suspension of the solids to superplasticize the suspension of solids, the suspension of solids including hydraulic binders which include materials selected from the group consisting of cement, lime, gypsum, anhydrite and mixtures thereof, ~~the block copolymers prepared by polymerization of a poly(alkylene oxide) compound with at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer compound~~

wherein the block copolymers are prepared by reacting a poly(alkylene oxide) compound of the general formula (I)



(I)

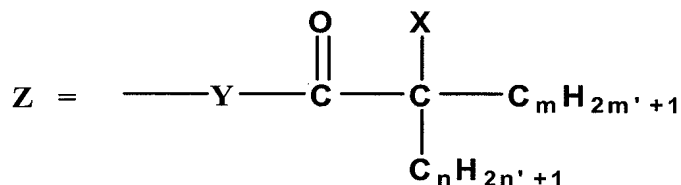
---

in which

$R^1 =$  hydrogen, a  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl radical, a cycloaliphatic  $C_5$ - $C_{12}$ -cycloalkyl radical, an optionally substituted  $C_6$ - $C_{14}$ -aryl radical;

$m = 2$  to  $4$ ;

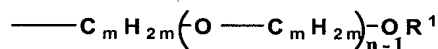
$n = 1$  to  $250$ ;



(III)

where  $Y = O$  or  $NR^2$

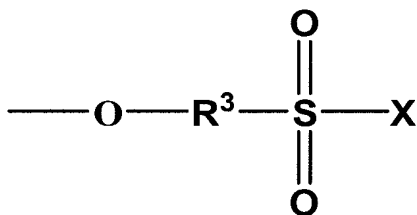
$R^2 =$  H, a  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ -alkyl radical, a  $C_6$ - $C_{14}$ -aryl radical, or



$X = Cl$  or  $Br$

$m' = 1$  to  $4$

$n' = 0$  to  $2$ ,

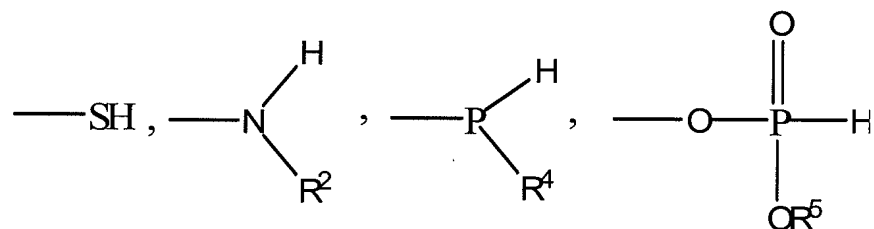


(IV)

where

$R^3 =$  an optionally substituted  $C_6$ - $C_{14}$ -arylene radical

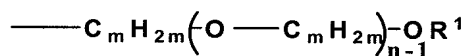
$X = Cl, Br$



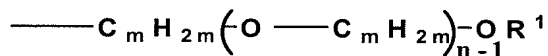
(V)

in which

R<sup>4</sup> is H, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl radical, a C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkyl radical, a C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>14</sub>-aryl radical, optionally substituted by hydroxyl, carboxyl or sulfo groups, or

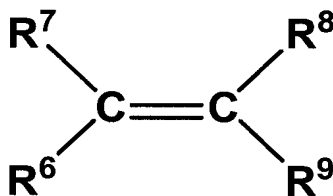


and R<sup>5</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>14</sub>-aryl, or



and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, m and n have the abovementioned meaning,

with an ethylenically unsaturated monomer compound capable of free radical polymerization and of the general formula (II)



(II)

in which

R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> may be H, CH<sub>3</sub>, COOH or salts thereof, COOR<sup>10</sup>, CONR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>10</sup>

R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> together may be O-CO-O

R<sup>8</sup> may be H, CH<sub>3</sub>, or -CH<sub>2</sub>-COOR<sup>10</sup>

R<sup>9</sup> may be COOR<sup>10</sup>, an optionally substituted C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>14</sub>-aryl radical or OR<sup>11</sup>

R<sup>10</sup> may be H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>-hydroxyalkyl,

R<sup>11</sup> may be acetyl, and

R<sup>1</sup>, m and n have the abovementioned meaning.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the reaction of the poly(alkylene oxide) compound with the monomer compound is carried out in the form of a free radical polymerization.

23. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the reaction is effected in the form of an "atom transfer radical polymerization" (ATRP).

24. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 21, wherein the aryl radicals for R<sup>1</sup> are also substituted by hydroxyl, carboxyl and sulfo groups.

25. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 21, wherein in formula (I), m is 2 or 3 and n is 5 to 250.

26. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 21, wherein that R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>-alkyl.

27. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 21, wherein m' is 1 and n' is 0 or 1.



28. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 20 ~~21~~, wherein the arylene radical  $R^3$  also has halo, hydroxyl,  $C_1-C_{12}$ -alkoxy,  $C_1-C_{12}$ -dialkylamino or carboxyl groups.

29. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 20 ~~21~~, wherein  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  are H,  $R^6$  and  $R^9$  together are O-CO-O,  $R^8$  is H,  $CH_3$  or  $CH_2COOR^{10}$  and  $R^9$  is  $COOR^{10}$  or is a phenyl radical optionally substituted by hydroxyl, carboxyl or sulfo groups.

30. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  are H,  $R^8$  = H or  $CH_3$  and  $R^9$  =  $COOR^{10}$ .

31. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  are H,  $R^8$  = H or  $CH_3$  and  $R^9$  is  $COOH$  or salts thereof or  $COOR^{12}$ , where  $R^{12}$  is tert-butyl or  $C_1-C_6$ -hydroxyalkyl.

32. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 20 ~~21~~, wherein the reaction of the poly (alkylene oxide) compound and the monomer compound is carried out in the presence of a inimer compound.

33. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the inimer compound is prepared by esterification of hydroxy-functionalized monomers, such as, for example hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA), with ATRP initiators, such as, for example, halopropionic acids.

34. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the inimer compound is prepared by sulfochlorination of styrene.

35. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the reaction is effected in the temperature range from 20 to 110°C.

36. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the block copolymers are used in an amount of 0.01 to 5% by weight, based on the suspension of solids.

37. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the suspension of solids contains inorganic particles selected from the group consisting of crushed rock, silicate powder, chalk, clays, porcelain slip, talc, pigments and carbon black.

38. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the suspension of solids contains organic particles, such as, for example, plastics powder.